ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

10800 Financial Centre Parkway

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS UP 7 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

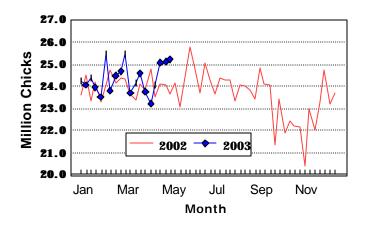
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 25.2 million during the week ending May 10, 2003. Placements were up 7 percent from comparable week in 2002, and up fractionally from the previous week, and included 2.7 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through May 10, 2003 were 463.2 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.5 million, up 1 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, but down fractionally from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 2.5 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 83.0 percent.

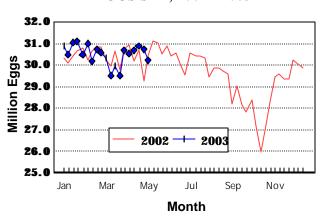
Arkansas hatcheries set 30.2 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending May 10, 2003, down 1 percent from the same period last year, and down 2 percent from the revised previous week.

	NET P	LACEME	NTS	CHIC	KS HATC	HED	EGGS SET			
Week Ending	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change	
	1,0	00		1,000			1,000			
Apr. 5	23,859	23,750	100	24,711	24,422	99	30,730	30,672	100	
Apr. 12	24,801	23,255	94	25,468	24,831	98	30,962	30,527	99	
Apr. 19	23,507	24,054	102	24,659	24,651	100	30,175	30,670	102	
Apr. 26	24,099	25,096	104	25,454	25,456	100	30,698	30,900	101	
May 3	24,077	25,120	104	25,694	25,470	99	29,253	30,764	105	
May 10	23,651	25,219	107	25,216	25,456	101	30,436	30,235	99	

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2002-2003



EGGS SET, 2002 - 2003



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003

	E	EGGS SET	(in Thousan	ds)		CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)							
	Week Ending					Week Ending						1/	
STATE	19-Apr	26-Apr	03-May	10-May	%	05-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr	03-May	10-May	%	
Alabama	28,096 *	28,719	28,660	28,450	97	21,442	21,439	21,359 *	21,554	21,936	21,208	98	
ARKANSAS	30,670	30,900	30,764 *	30,235	99	23,750	23,255	24,054	25,096	25,120	25,219	107	
Delaware	4,007	3,634	3,699	3,680	102	5,258	4,973	5,266	5,899	5,821 *	5,200	85	
Florida	1,602	1,731	1,643	1,639	68	1,608	1,892	1,638	1,634	1,651	1,853	86	
Georgia	31,789 *	31,795	31,864	31,837	97	25,057	25,162	24,127	25,688 *	26,357 *	24,206	92	
Kentucky	6,350 *	6,425 *	6,659 *	5,651	85	5,324	5,945	5,717	6,071 *	5,164 *	5,654	97	
Maryland	9,924	9,613	9,583 *	9,626	96	6,592	6,341	5,945	5,600	5,744 *	6,546	116	
Mississippi	19,037	18,575	19,109	18,766	98	16,209	16,425	16,572	16,549	16,217	16,277	105	
N. Carolina	19,321 *	19,275	18,815	18,937	98	14,897	15,268	15,033	14,780	15,077 *	15,184	97	
Oklahoma	6,513	6,511	6,498	6,015	99	4,850	5,474	4,389	4,424	4,181	4,394	81	
Pennsylvania	3,653	3,670 *	3,598 *	3,779	109	2,655	2,565	2,679	2,637 *	2,672 *	2,637	97	
S. Carolina	4,578	4,771	4,858	5,018	105	4,201	3,498	4,088	4,206	3,424 *	4,282	114	
Texas	15,224 *	15,016 *	15,050 *		97	12,197 *	,	12,317 *	,	,	12,646	104	
Virginia	6,692	6,628	6,626	6,622	103	5,358	5,149	5,506	5,986	5,849	5,945	114	
CA,LA,MO,TN,WV	21,405 *	21,018	21,421 *		97	18,413 *	,		,	/	,	94	
Total 2003	208,861 *	208,281 *	208,847 *			167,811 *	168,725 *	166,946 *			170,085	_	
Total 2002	211,242	210,178	209,812	211,162		168,672	169,829	168,903	172,792	172,635	172,081		
% Prev. Year	99	99	100	97		99	99	99	99	99	99		
Approximate Marketing Date 2003										21-Jun	28-Jun		
		_					-						

^{*} Revised . 1/ Current week as a

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 3 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 206 millioneggs during the week ending May 10, 2003. This was down 3 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 170 million chicks for meat production during the week ending May 10, 2003. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through May 10, 2003 were 3.17 billion, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

^{1/} Current week as percent of the same week last year.